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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/844,630 | 05/01/2001 | Kazunori Kobayashi | 206173US2 | 2451 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 11/17/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | WALLERSON, MARK E | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 2626 | | |
| DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/844,630 | KOBAYASHI, KAZUNORI |
| | Examiner Mark E. Wallerson | Art Unit 2626 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statements dated 6/17/2002, 4/23/03, and 1/23/04 have been considered by the Examiner and is attached to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa et al (Maniwa) (U.S. 5,768,483).

With respect to claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, and 23, Maniwa discloses a multi-function apparatus (figure 1), comprising a plurality of image forming apparatuses (fax and

printer) (figure 3), each comprising a controller (figure 1) including a program memory for storing a program used by each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses (302, figure 3); a buffer memory (303); a data transmission mechanism configured to connect said plurality of image forming apparatuses to each other so as to allow a data transmission (figures 1 and 3); and a connector (312) configured to connect an external storage (109) to said data transmission mechanism so as to allow a data transmission from the external storage (109) to said buffer memory (column 12, line 65 to column 13, line 2), said external storage storing data of programs to be respectively used by said plurality of image forming apparatuses (column 12, line 65 to column 13, line 13), wherein, when said external storage is connected to said connector, said data of said programs stored in said external storage are transmitted to said buffer memory through said connector and are downloaded into said program memory included in said controller of each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, respectively, through a data transmission using said data transmission mechanism (column 12, line 65 to column 13, line 13).

With regard to claim 3, 9, 16, and 17, Maniwa discloses the data of the programs transmitted from the external storage to said buffer memory are downloaded with the communications mechanism to the program memory included in the controller of each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses at a transmission rate faster than a regular transmission rate used for said control data (column 13, lines 14-27).

With regard to claims 6 and 12, Maniwa discloses a facsimile device and a copier (figures 1 and 3).

With respect to claim 21, Maniwa discloses selecting an image forming apparatus to which programs will be downloaded, wherein the selection is made from an operation panel (column 12, line 51 to column 13, line 22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa in view of Hu et al (Hu) (U.S. 5,459,579).

With respect to claims 4, 10, and 18, Maniwa differs from claims 4, 10, and 18 in that he does not clearly disclose a UART. Hu discloses a multifunctional system that uses a UART as a communication medium (column 5, lines 26-35). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Maniwa wherein a UART is used as the communications medium. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Maniwa by the teaching of Hu in order to improve the communications process.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark E. Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday - 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark E. Wallerson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER